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The situation in Central America: progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005

United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/58/L.30

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

Summary

The General Assembly is considering the final renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala (MINUGUA) for one year, from 1 January to 31 December 2004, and in that regard, a draft resolution (A/58/L.30) is before it. Should the Assembly extend the mandate of MINUGUA, requirements for 2004 of $6,721,100 would arise for the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005.

A provision of $163,178,100 (before recosting) has been sought for special political missions under section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/58/L.30, the requirements of MINUGUA for 2004 in the amount of $6,721,100 would be charged against the provision for special political missions requested under section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005.

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I. Introduction

1. By its resolution 57/161 of 16 December 2002, the General Assembly authorized the renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala (MINUGUA) for one year, from 1 January to 31 December 2003. By operative paragraph 18 of draft resolution A/58/L.30, the General Assembly would decide to authorize a final renewal of the mandate of MINUGUA for a one-year period, from 1 January to 31 December 2004.

II. Relationship of the proposed request to the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005

2. The above-mentioned request relates to subprogramme 1.1, Prevention, control and resolution of conflicts, of programme 1, Political affairs, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005.[1]

III. Activities by which the request would be implemented

3. Since the last report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly (A/57/584), the Mission has carried out its mandate within the framework of a general transition strategy designed to contribute to the long-term sustainability of the peace process. The most recent report on the verification of peace agreements covering the period from 1 May 2002 to 15 July 2003 (A/58/267) is before the General Assembly.

4. As MINUGUA prepares to withdraw in 2004, its work will shift to include a greater focus on political impact, through good offices and public information, to assure a smooth changeover with the new Government on the peace agenda, both at the level of the central government and local authorities. In addition to transition efforts with national institutions and organizations, complementary measures have been advanced to ensure specific follow-up by the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, as well as by members of the international community.

5. In this regard, the United Nations High Commissioner for human rights (OHCHR) is working to upgrade its presence in Guatemala. The Mission has worked closely during 2003 with the existing OHCHR project, both to implement a joint work plan on indigenous peoples' rights, as well as to assist in developing the plans for the High Commissioner's future work in Guatemala. This collaboration will deepen in 2004.

6. The Mission is working with the United Nations country team to develop the new United Nations Development Assistance Framework, and build greater monitoring and reporting capacity on the pending implementation of the socio-economic commitments contained in the peace agreements.

7. While the mandate for this mission emanates from the General Assembly, and the current statement of programme budget implications is being submitted in accordance with rule 153 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, a fuller description of the Mission's objective, expected accomplishments and outputs for 2004 is presented, in the results-based budgeting format, in the report of the

Secretary-General entitled "Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives, authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council" (A/C.5/58/20), which contains the budget proposals for all special political missions.

IV. Estimated requirements of the Mission for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2004

8. The estimated costs of the extension of the mandate of MINUGUA for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2004 amount to $6,721,100. These resources would cover the costs relating to a civilian police officer ($32,400); salaries and common staff costs relating to 97 staff (32 international and 65 local) ($5,154,500); consultants ($25,000); six United Nations Volunteers ($243,200); official travel ($32,700); operational costs, including communications, transportation and other operational requirements ($1,074,800); and other programmes, including information and training programmes ($158,500).

9. The level of resources requested for MINUGUA for 2004 includes the reduction in the number of civilian police from 6 to 1; in staffing from 177 positions in 2003 to 97 in 2004; and in United Nations Volunteers from 56 to 6, as part of further downsizing of the Mission and its eventual completion by the end of 2004.

V. Action required of the General Assembly

10. A provision of $163,178,100 (before recosting) has been sought for special political missions under section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005. As described in paragraph 3.56 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 (A/58/6 (Sect. 3)), the utilization of the provision for political missions would be subject to individual legislative mandates and approval by the General Assembly, as and when the General Assembly and/or the Security Council establish or renew the mandates of such missions.

11. **Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/58/L.30, the requirements in the amount of $6,721,100 would be charged against the provision for special political missions requested under section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005.**

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/57/6/Rev.1 and Corr.1).